

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 22, No. 30

TORONTO 2, CANADA

November 22nd, 1930

KISS YOUR RECORDS GOOD BYE!

Warfield, Frisco, smashes, "Big House" totals in amazing extended run!

(What an actress! One minute they're screaming with laughter at her. The next they're brushing away a tear. She's the public's idol!)



MARIE

DRESSLER



(People said he could never equal his "Butch" in "The Big House." Well, here's a role that tops it. A flock of laughs! A pack of heart-throbs. A pictureful of drama!)

WALLACE

BEERY

in "MIN AND BILL" Suggested by Lorna Moon's "The Dark Star" directed by George Hill

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER'S Extended Run Smash!

PUBLISHED BY

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED

259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

3 OUT OF 8 FOR METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

(Competitors 3, 1, 1)



Again this year M-G-M thrills the entire industry in the vote of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, representing all companies.

NORMA SHEARER

wins award for year's greatest performance in "The Divorcee"
WATCH FOR "STRANGERS MAY KISS."



WRITING ACHIEVEMENT! Frances Marion wins for her work on "The Big House." Her next thriller is "THE SECRET SIX."



SOUND RECORDING! Douglas Shearer, Chief of Sound at M-G-M Studios, has made M-G-M sound recording the best in the industry!

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on

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Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

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RAY LEWIS

Editor and Managing Director

Vol. 22, No. 30

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H.M. The King's Message



THE BRITISH Gala Film Performance presented upon the screen of the New Victoria Theatre, a message from H. M. The King, to the British producers.

The message is both inspirational and significant, indicating the status to which the Industry of Motion Pictures has developed in Great Britain, and to which it will grow throughout the Empire.

The message of H.M. The King, reads, "I am commanded to convey to you the expression of the sincere thanks of the King and Queen for the message of loyal greetings which you have addressed to Their Majesties on behalf of the Film Producers of Great Britain. The King feels that the presence of the Delegates to the Imperial Conference at this evening's performance of British Films cannot fail to be both an inspiration and encouragement to the British Film Industry, for the successful progress of which His Majesty offers his best wishes." Stamfordham.

Sir James Lithgow, President of the Federation of British Industries, and Lady Lithgow, were host and hostess for the Gala Performance, and it is through the office of Sir James that the British Film Producers sent the following message to Their Majesties, the King and Queen.

"On behalf of the Film Producers of Great Britain who have organized the Gala Performance of British Films in honour of the Delegates to the Imperial Conference, I have the honour to submit to Your Majesties a respectful and loyal message of greetings."

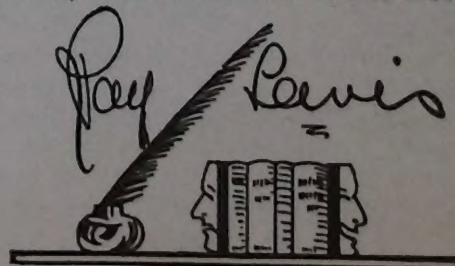
The theatre, loaned by Gaumont British for the occasion, was packed, and as the invitations specified "Evening Dress and Decorations," it was a glittering, as well as notable gathering.

The Prime Minister, the Right Hon. J. Ramsay MacDonald, accompanied by his daughter, Miss Ishbell MacDonald, and the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, Prime Minister of Canada, and Lord Passfield, were the first of the distinguished guests to arrive, followed by the Premiers of the Dominions, Cabinet Ministers, the officers of the delegations and their staffs.

Receiving the guests in the foyer of the theatre were Sir James Lithgow, Bart., M.C., and Lady Lithgow. Assisting Sir James, were Lord Lee, Mr. Isidor Ostrer, Chairman of the Gaumont British Corporation; Mr. Will Evans, and Mr. C. M. Woolf, Joint Managing Directors; Mr. John Maxwell, Chairman of British International Pictures Ltd.; and other representatives of the Industry, including Mr. Neville Kearney, and Mr. Charles Tennyson of the Film Department of the F. B. I.

The augmented orchestra of the New Victoria Theatre played "Land of Hope and Glory," the audience rose to pay tribute; and the performance proceeded with a Newsreel, the British and Dominions Film, "Plunder," a British Instructional Nature Study, "Plants of the Underworld," and closed with the British International feature, "The Middle Watch."

The program was excellent throughout, and upheld the note of distinctive quality with which the British Film Gala Performance made British Film History on the evening of Wednesday, November 5th, at London.



RAW



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

THE NEW Victoria Theatre, the Gaumont British contribution for the presentation of the British Film Gala Performance, was the scene of as distinguished a gathering as has honoured the British Film Industry, or any Industry of Motion Pictures.

Under the patronage of the Federation of British Industries, the evening's festivities were opened with a dinner given by the Gaumont British; at which Mr. Isidore Ostrer, Chairman of the Gaumont British Corporation, presided as host for his company.

THE PRIME MINISTER of England, the Right Hon. J. Ramsay MacDonald, and Miss Ishbell MacDonald, were seated to the right and left of their host respectively, with the Right Hon. Miss Margaret Bonfield, and the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett seated next in order. Directly opposite the Prime Minister of England, was seated Mr. Simon Rawson, Director of the Gaumont British, and Mrs. Rawson; Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Smith (Ray Lewis).

Lord Lee, Chairman of the Metropolis and Bradford Company, the holding company of the Gaumont British, was seated left of Miss Ishbell MacDonald; and close by was Sir James and Lady Lithgow; Mr. John Maxwell, Chairman of the British International, and Mrs. Maxwell; Mr. C. M. Woolf, and Mr. Will Evans, joint Managing Directors; The Right Hon. Lord Passfield, Right Hon. Arthur Greenwood; and the Rt. Hon. W. Adamson. In all there were about sixty guests present for the dinner.

MR. OSTRER gave the toast to the King, followed by a toast to the Prime Ministers of the Dominions, and the Delegates. The Prime Minister, the Right Hon. J. Ramsay MacDonald, complimented the Film Committee of the Federation of British Industries for the brilliance of the idea and its fulfillment; and prophesied a much greater future as well as the enjoyment of a prosperous present for British Films.

The Prime Minister of England, said in referring to the dinner, "If Mr. Ostrer had only given us the beauty of this table with its garden of roses and violets, it would have been sufficient without the delightful repast which we have so much enjoyed."

Your Editor has had the pleasure of attending many brilliant functions, formal and informal, but never have I seen a table present such a picture of beauty as that table presented.

ROSSES, red, yellow and pink, just opening their petals, as if to assume the modest beauty of the violets which were clustered about the table, appeared to be growing there, as in a garden, a cultured, well-kept garden.

When I am a very old lady, sitting somewhere in an English garden, (I hope), my memory will pleasantly travel back to the vision of roses which I saw at that memorable dinner with Mr. Ostrer of Gaumont British as its host.

AS for the food, Lucullus could not have improved upon it, even with his roasted peacocks, his stuffed swans and nightingales' tongues. It was a dinner served by an Epicurean, to Epicurean tastes.

Mr. Ostrer's reply to the address of the Prime Minister, was short, but to the point, an address of gracious welcome, and the dinner which commenced at 7 p.m., was over in time to permit the guests to proceed to the Gala Performance, which commenced sharply at 8.30 p.m.

The Canadian guests at the Gala Performance, in addition to the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, included the Hon. Maurice Dupre, Solicitor General of Canada, and Mrs. Dupre; the Hon. H. H. Stevens, Minister of Trade, and Mrs. Stevens.

AUSTRALIA was represented by the Rt. Hon. J. H. Scullin, Prime Minister; Hon. F. Brennan, Attorney-General; Hon. Parker J. Maloney, Minister of Markets and Transport.

New Zealand was represented by its Prime Minister, the Right Hon. G. W. Forbes; Hon. Sir Thomas Sidney, Attorney-General.

South Africa was represented by the Prime Minister General, the Hon. J. B. M. Hertzog; the Hon. C. N. Havenga, Minister of Finance.

Newfoundland was represented by its Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir Richard Squires.

The Irish Free State was represented by its Minister of External Affairs, P. McGilligan; D. Fitzgerald, Minister of Defence; P. Hogan, Minister of Agriculture; J. A. Costello, Attorney-General, and the Commissioner for Trade, J. Dulanty.

IT WAS indeed an audience of statesmen who came as the guests of the British Film Industry and when at the close of the performance, the Prime Minister thanked the British producers for the excellence of the program presented; and again foretold the success "Our Films" in an Empire and world market, his words voiced the sentiments of all who were present.





A Junior Equipment

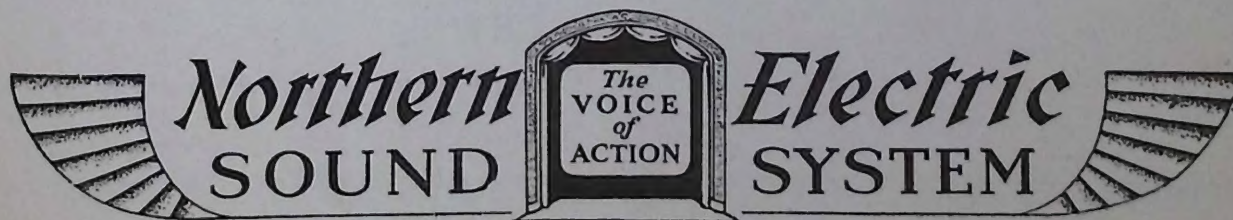
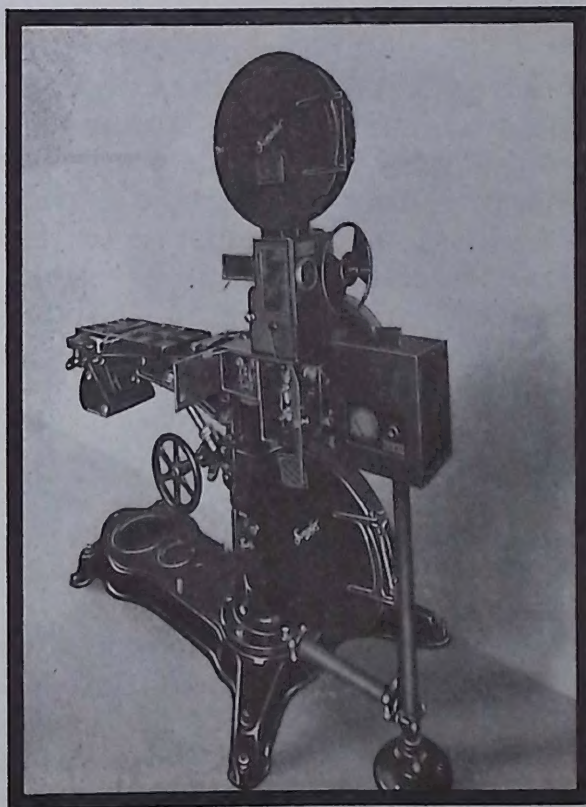
A Junior Northern Electric Sound System equipment equal in every way to those supplied to over 300 of the leading theatres of Canada's larger cities—yet specially designed to serve the smaller audiences of neighbourhood theatres—is now available to exhibitors.

\$4,700 is the cost—Payable on the easy payment plan. This figure in-

cludes thorough acoustical survey—complete installation by experienced staff—complete set of spare parts—full insurance on equipment—publicity helps, cuts and lobby plaque, and for a small weekly charge. Purchasers of this equipment are assured of all the features of Northern Electric Service.

RESEARCH PRODUCTS SALES DEPARTMENT

637 CRAIG STREET WEST - MONTREAL



Western Electric in U. S. A.

“Hell’s Angels” Great

WE have heard much discussion of the United Artists’ feature “Hell’s Angels.”

When I left Canada, this feature was in trouble with our Censor Board because of some of its scenes. It was to have played the Royal Alexandra, but was withheld.

I saw “Hell’s Angels” at the London Pavilion, London, England. I shall not soon forget it.

By arrangement with Charles B. Cochran, its producer, Howard Hughes presented it.

The house was packed, and is packed for every performance. In fact it is impossible to secure seats without booking in advance.

The top price is about \$2.60, and it is worth the money.

There was never a picture made that one could not criticize, but the fact remains, that despite scenes of but slight importance, eighty per cent of “Hell’s Angels” is so good that it is great; and probably presents the greatest, the most startling, the most inspiring and most beautiful air-raid scenes, together with flashes of the famous German Fokker D-VII’s and the Allied craft planes, including British S.E. 5’s, Sopwith Camels, Sopwith Snipes and Avros as anyone will be permitted, or is possible to be seen in action.

If there is a controversy about this picture, forget it. Nothing matters, but the plane scenes, nothing will be remembered but these plane scenes; and everything else should be forgotten.

London is talking about “Hell’s Angels,” the heroes are English and German, and if either nation had any cowards, they too had their great moments of War service; and as represented in this picture, the planes are the heroes; and their pilots but instruments of their diabolic or divine Service.

RAY LEWIS,

Editor, Canadian Moving Picture Digest

Observations



By The Editor

THE BRITISH Film Gala Performance, which took place at the New Victoria Theatre, London, was the finest example of British Film propaganda, which the Industry and its sponsors have yet presented.

* * * *

BEFORE your Observer proceeds further with Observations on this Film event, let us here register that Mr. Neville Kearney, Irish and British, and Head of the F. B. I. Film Industries Department, is responsible for the idea of the Gala Performance, and the success of its undertaking.

* * * *

THIS statement is made, not to discredit the valuable assistance which the entire committee gave to the occasion, but to emphasize the important service, by way of conception, which Mr. Kearney furnished.

* * * *

YOUR OBSERVER had occasion to have several conferences with this mile-a-minute gentleman; and if anyone in England works faster and harder, please introduce me, because that person is more than human!

* * * *

ENGLAND has changed. They are thinking faster and moving faster in some things, noticeably the Industry; perhaps it is the visit of the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, which appears to be electrifying the atmosphere, for there is much sunshine, no fog, startling headlines, definite statements, and Empire Trade discussed on street corners, in pubs and in palaces.

* * * *

TRADE is the magic word opening the vista to a new England, and a greater Empire, great in unity, in amity, and in prosperity; if the Government will act.

* * * *

THE BRITISH Film Gala Performance, and the preceding dinner, certainly gathered strength for its fulfillment through the known friendly attitude, and solicitude for British films in Canada; and a prosperous British Film Industry as expressed by the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett.

* * * *

THE PRIME MINISTER likes action, likes to see a motion of activities, especially as this refers to trade, Canadian Trade and Empire Trade; and the press of Great Britain has made known his positive sentiments in this regard, in the forceful language with which he has expressed these sentiments.

* * * *

NOTHING which the British Film Industry could have said about its productions, its manner of taking hold of an important event to stress their value, could have so assured the Prime Ministers of the Dominions of the quality of British films now being made, as this opportunity to witness examples of them.

* * * *

CONGRATULATIONS are indeed due the organizing committee which consisted of Charles Tennyson, C.M.G., (Chairman), (Chairman of the F. B. I. Film Group); Mr. Neville Kearney, (Head of the F. B. I.

Film Industries Department) representing the F. B. I.; R. A. Wiseman, (Assistant Secretary Dominion Office); Lt.-Col. H. V. B de Satge, C.M.G., D.S.O., (Ceremonial and Reception Secretary of the Imperial Conference, Dominions Office); G. C. Hatton, (Representing the Board of Trade, and the Department of Overseas Trade); E. Foxen Cooper (Government Advisor on Film Matters).

* * * *

THESE gentlemen represent Government Departments; while representing the British Film production Industry, the organizing committee included S. Rowson (Managing Director, Ideal Films Ltd., Director Gaumont British Pictures Corp., Ltd., Director Gainsborough Pictures, (1928) Ltd.); Mr. A. Dent, (Managing Director, Wardour Films Ltd., Director, British International Pictures, Ltd.); H. Bruce Woolf, (Managing Director, British Instructional Films, Ltd.); and J. Russell Orr, O.B.E., (Representing the Commission on Educational and Cultural Films).

* * * *

IN the foreword of the program, as presented by the organizing committee we have, "In selecting the program, the Committee has endeavored to give an idea of the scope and variety of up-to-date British productions, while bearing in mind that the final criterion of any film program is its entertainment value. The principal difficulty has been "an embarrassment of riches;" for the material available would have enabled the committee to make up a dozen or more programs, no less excellent than which will actually be presented.

* * * *

IF COMEDY rather than tragedy holds the stage, this fact will serve to draw attention to the excellent comedy pictures, which in recent months have been produced in British studios. It seems possible that in films of British humour, the Industry may find a key to world markets no less effective than other countries have found in the galloping cow-boy and the quickly drawn revolver.

* * * *

WHAT of the future? The British Industry is healthier, stronger and more stable today than at any time since the war. In technical equipment, acting, direction, and finish, it can challenge the best. In the last few months, there has been a quite remarkable change in the attitude of the public at home towards British pictures, where at one time, they were screened mainly for patriotic reasons, they are now being sought because it pays the exhibitor to show them. In Canada and Australia, too, new British talking pictures have had "runs" equal to those accorded to the best competing pictures, while on the Continent their reception in German or French versions has been most encouraging."

* * * *

YOUR OBSERVER adds that the film program as presented was entertainment throughout, the quality of the pictures, possessing such an appeal and value, as would tend to make an evening's enjoyment in any theatre, anywhere, everywhere!

The New Film on Broadway

By BETTY ROSS

"A LADY'S MORALS" — a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production with Grace Moore in a picture directed by Sidney Franklyn; story prepared by a group of writers; music also from various sources.

A dazzling young opera singer has appeared on the silver-screen in the person of Grace Moore, in the picture version of Jenny Lind's life in "A Lady's Morals." She is a truly alluring blonde with a soft charm and dignity. What is more, she demonstrates a definite talent for acting, in addition to the lovely voice that carried her from musical comedy to the Metropolitan Opera.

As the glamorous Swedish Nightingale, she is introduced at the height of her fame. A gentle, and sweet love tale unfolds, sketching picturesque scenes that come to a dramatic denouement with the loss of her voice, a miraculous restoration, and the triumphs of her American tour.

The part of her lover Paul Brandt is played with distinction by Reginald Denny. Himself a musician on the brink of fame, we see him as he lays mad siege to the heart of the unattainable diva. Through tempestuous dark times he emerges victorious.

There are generous portions of humor, with the aid of Paul Porcasi in the excellently acted part of the excitable manager. Jobyna Howland, as the companion, and a half a dozen other minor characters, do splendid work.

Director Sidney Franklyn has managed to create and sustain a rhythmic tempo of fragrance and romance. The film is reminiscent of one of those languorous, dreamy waltzes to which crinolined ladies swung gracefully on the arms of their handsome partners. The lovely Miss Moore is in every respect worth seeing—a vocal, dramatic, and visual treat.

* * * *

"BILLY THE KID" in Realife, a new enlarged process by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, directed by King Vidor.

Billy is none other than our old friend Robin Hood, transplanted to the stamping ground of the old New Mexican Territory, and here shown in Realife, an enlarging process which increases figures to four-fold their natural size. Numerous shots of the sun-bathed mountain country of the Southwest are impressive and beautiful as they stream majestically across the immense new canvas. These scenes are nature's very own, and some of the film's best.

The tale concerns itself with a romantic and patriotic youth much incensed over the plight of his country in the hand of villains bearing the garb of the law. Dressed in picturesque cowboy attire, pearl-handled pistols, flowing locks and hair-raising vocabulary, he sets out to chasten the bad men of the country side. A good shot, he becomes the terror of the range, and his name the occasion for furtive looks and hurried departures. As his policy is to mete out justice to all, and swift vengeance to evil-doers, he necessitates the notice of the law itself, and is forced to hide in a mountain cave. The

girl, the climax, and the conclusion provide juicy tid-bits in a red-blooded, action-filled cinema.

John Mack Brown gives an engaging performance of the title role. Wallace Beery is most effective as the Deputy Sheriff. The blonde Kay Johnson is a charming heroine.

* * * *

"DU BARRY, WOMAN OF PASSION" — starring Norma Talmadge. Joseph Schenck presents the film through the United Artists. Directed by Sam Taylor; Based on play by David Belasco.

The story of Jeannette Vaubernier, the little milliner who captured the heart of Louis the Fifteenth, King of France, has been played by a succession of beautiful actresses the world over. But never has the part been acted with more grace and feeling than with which Norma Talmadge invests it in this film.

However, the rise and fall of this famous charmer, enveloped as it is in thrills and aromas of the old French Court, should have a new twist to save it from becoming more than twice-told tale of rags to riches. Yet there is still a romantic flavor to the epic of the pretty girl from a Parisian Shop who falls in love with a handsome young officer of the King's Guard. Instead of getting him, Jeannette falls victim to the selfish old monster of a monarch. There is nothing lacking, dramatically speaking, with the mechanics of this story, and there is a definite charm in this tale of French Court life, that is a refreshing relief from realistic gangster and bootleg dramas.

Miss Talmadge is, as always, a pictorial pleasure, always the charming, perfectly poised lady.

William Farnum does well as the King, Conrad Nagel as the hero, Cosse de Brissac, Hobart Bosworth as the Captain of the Guard, and Ulrich as Jean Du Barry.

The costuming and settings are magnificently splendid and sparkling.

* * * *

"EAST IS WEST," a Universal Picture; based on the stage play of the same name; directed by Monta Bell.

That attractive mad-cap Mexican, Lupe Velez, recreates the role of Ming Toy in "East Is West." Here again the Chinese girl who falls in love with a white man, is almost renounced by him at the crucial moment, until it is discovered that she is white. Thus the twain do meet—and live happily ever after.

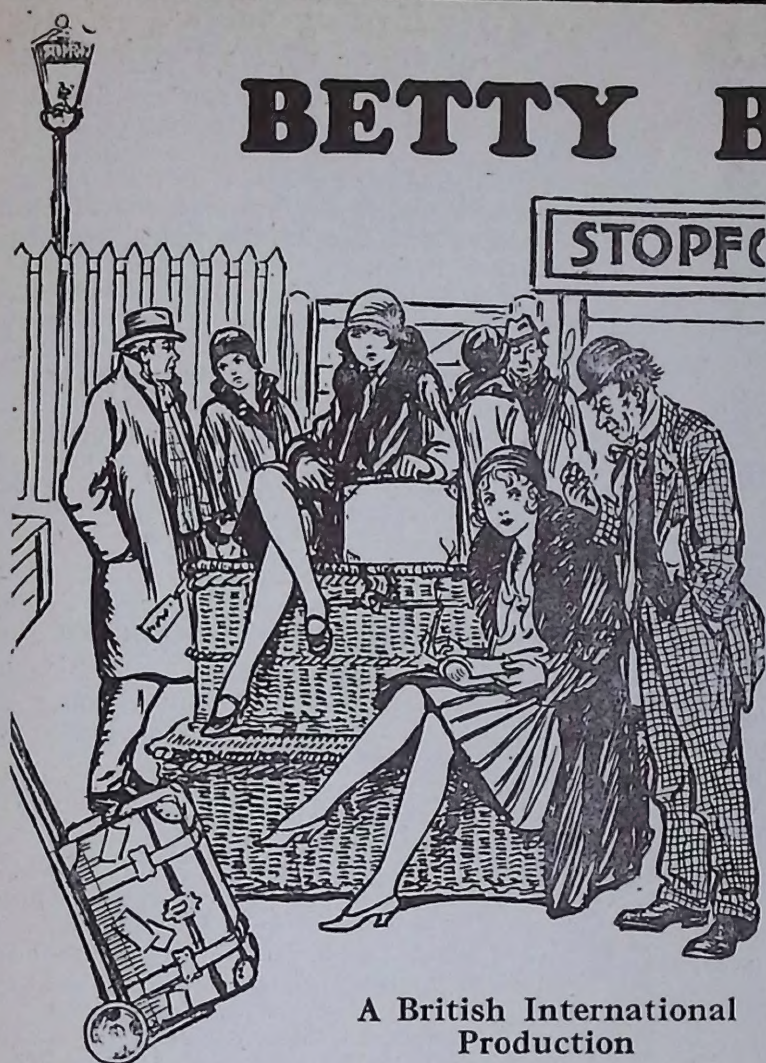
Miss Velez' Ming Toy is just a coy little cut-up. Her brand of mad-cappery is strained to the very limits. However, in spite of cyclonic waggeries in the shape of sliding down bannisters, and blowing bubbles with chewing gum between streams of mincing baby-talk, the audience appeared amused and satisfied.

Lewis Ayres in the thankless task of impersonating the role of Billie Benson, the American beloved, did very well with this role.

BETTY BALFOUR

In Her First
Talking, Singing
and Dancing Picture

RAISE THE ROOF



A British International
Production

The Trials and Tribulations; the
Pleasures and Pastimes of a Touring
Theatrical Company.

It's a Box Office "Natural," with a
Laugh and a Cry, a Song and a
Dance in Every Scene.

Distributed in Canada by **Regal Films Limited**

British International Elstree Studio A Hive of Industry

It may be interesting to record a few facts and figures of the activities of British International Pictures' studios at Elstree.

During the past six months no less than 13,420,597 feet of film has been developed, which represents 2,542 miles all but a few yards. Out of these miles of films have come twenty-five productions including Shorts, Featurettes and such Features as "Murder," "Atlantic," "Young Woodley," "Loose Ends," "Almost A Honey-moon," "Flame of Love," "Compromising Daphne," "The Man From Chicago," and "The Middle Watch."

The staff needed for such productions is necessarily large and means that the seven fully equipped studios going at full pressure utilizes the services of between six and seven hundred employees for fifty-two weeks in the year.

British International Pictures may well be termed a hive of industry, as apart from actual productions, 233 tests of artists have been made, each test averaging 200 feet of film.

The Feature productions which are starting at once include, Bernard Shaw's "How He Lied To Her Husband" and "The Happy Husband," by Harrison Owen. These will be followed by Galsworthy's "Skin Game," "Potiphar's Wife," "Hawley's of the High Street" and "The Bridegroom's Widow," also Monty Banks will direct Leslie Fuller, the well known Margate Pedler, in a Featurette, "Wanted —?" by Lola Harvey and Syd Courteney.

In connection with "How He Lied To Her Husband," which, by the way, is played in the period of 1892-3, and "Skin Game," it is interesting to note that Edmund Gwenn, who plays the leading part in both these productions, has appeared in several Shaw and Galsworthy plays and in the case of the latter, created the part of Hornblower and played it at least 500 times. He may well be called "Shavian" and "Galsworthian."

So This Is Gratitude

When Mr. Harry M. Warner generously offered to open his Philadelphia theatres on Sunday, and turn the proceeds over to the unemployment fund, Rev. William B. Forney, executive secretary of the Philadelphia Sabbath Association wanted to know if the Warners would donate the proceeds of their theatres in towns that have their theatres open on Sunday, and asks why the Warners do not have a benefit on a weekday, turning the proceeds over to the fund. He concludes by stating that it would be necessary to obtain official permission to operate a Sunday show in Philadelphia.

D. W. Griffith to Address Columbia University Club

On Wednesday evening, November 26th, D. W. Griffith will address a meeting of the Columbia University Club. In his discourse, he will draw a comparison of the silent and talking pictures, and the old and new methods of production.

During his stay in New York Mr. Griffith has been reading plays and manuscripts in a search for a subject for his next production.

Columbia Showing Two on Broadway

At the present time, Columbia has two pictures showing on Broadway, "Brothers" at the Capitol Theatre, and "Tol'able David" at the Mayfair.

M-G-M Studio Engineers Co-operate With Projectionist

Projectionists in the theatres throughout the country are said to be getting remarkable results in modern research and engineering in the improving of film, of recording of sound, and of photography in talking pictures.

This has been brought about through the unique new system developed by the engineering staff at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios.

Whenever a film from this studio is shown in any theatre, a report blank accompanies it, and the projectionist is requested to write any criticism or suggestion, and enumerate any problems he met with in the handling of this picture.

The result has been thousands of constructive suggestions, and from them, and from a better understanding of the problems of the theatre operator, many changes and improvements have been possible, according to the studio engineers.

M. A. Lightman Re-elected

M. A. Lightman, President of the M.P.T.O.A. during the past year, was re-elected for the coming year, at the M.P.T.O.A. Convention, held at Philadelphia, November 11th, 12th and 13th.

In addition to the re-election of Mr. Lightman, Charles W. Picquet, North Carolina; R. R. Biechele, Kansas; and Frank C. Walker, New York, were returned to the Vice-Presidency; Harry C. Arthur, New York, was added. Sam Dembow, of Public, succeeded Willard C. Patterson. Fred Wehrenberg of St. Louis, succeeded E. M. Fay of Rhode Island, as Chairman of the Board; Jay Emanuel of Philadelphia was re-elected Treasurer, and Mike O'Toole of Pennsylvania, Secretary.

The attendance at the Convention was smaller than had been expected, Pennsylvania sending the majority of the delegates.

Advertising Council for Winnipeg

H. M. Warner, President of Warner Bros., announced that Warners now have a special advertising council for the benefit of exhibitors showing Warners and First National productions, this council consists of Warner, Sam E. Morris, Vice-President, and Mr. A. P. Waxman, who will create and execute special campaigns of advertising.

Waxman was chosen in recognition of the showmanship he displayed since the inception of Vitaphone. It is also proof of his successful handling of Broadway houses owned by Warners, which he will continue to supervise.

Al Lichtman, Vice-President in charge of production for United Artists has left for the Coast to confer with Joseph Schenck. It is said that this trip will determine Lichtman's future with the company.

Meanwhile, another rumour is going the rounds, to the effect that Lichtman may join up with Warner Bros.

A Correction

In the issue of The Digest of October 25th, on page 6, there is a statement to the effect that 631 revisions were made by the Ontario Censor Board during August. This statement is erroneous, as information from Capt. J. C. Boylan, Chairman of the Censor Board, indicates that the Board approved last year 631 film subjects in which revisions were made.

Harley Clarke Replies To United Artists

The battle still continues between Fox West Coast Theatres, and United Artists.

The trouble began a week ago, when United Artists broadcast a "declaration of independence," stating Fox was attempting to dictate the rentals it would pay for films, which rentals were thought to be unjust. A boycott was declared on Fox Theatres.

In connection with the charges of the monopoly on the Pacific Coast made by the United Artists group in which they describe the Fox West Coast organization as a "Trust attempting to stifle the highest development of the Motion Picture Industry," Harley L. Clarke, President of the Fox Film Corporation and Fox West Coast Theatres issued the following detailed reply:

"Apparently United Artists Corporation believes that old time standards still prevail in the Motion Picture Industry. United Artists demand prices for their pictures whether the theatre owner makes money or not. Every producer, except United Artists, nowadays sells its pictures on merit, that is, the producer gets a percentage of the gross receipts. The theatre goer pays to see the pictures he wants to see, and every picture earns money for its producer in proportion to its box office appeal. We have persistently offered to buy United Artists pictures on the same terms we pay all other producers and they have as persistently refused to sell them. United Artists want more money for their pictures than the public through the box-office will pay. The uncalled for remarks of the leaders of the United Artists make it imperative that we say that they are most misleading. The facts are that Fox West Coast Theatres, and other theatres of the Fox Film Corporation, are purchasing pictures from Paramount-Publix Corporation, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Distributing Corporation, Universal Film Exchanges, Inc., Columbia Pictures Corporation, First National Pictures, Inc., Pathe, Exchange, Inc., Tiffany Productions, Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., and Fox Film Corporation, on the basis of flat rental or a percentage of their gross receipts. This automatically rewards merit in pictures. This procedure is common to the entire Industry except some who are operating under unexpired contracts.

"Much as we should like to add to the incomes of the famous old time actors composing the United Artists, we can only do so on the basis of the demands of the theatre going public. We have always been willing, and still are willing, to give the United Artists their share of every dollar taken in at the box-office because of their pictures, but we cannot give them a preferential position over all the other producers with whom we do business."

Nicholas Schenck in reply has stated that Mr. Clarke is evading the issue.

The passage-at-arms is bound to be interesting, since Mr. Joseph Schenck's brother, Nicholas Schenck, through the Fox-Loew hook-up, is "on the other side." Also, United Artists and Loews are in partnership in some theatres.

Tom Daley Managing Uptown

Mr. Tom Daley has returned from Halifax, where he supervised the opening of the Capitol Theatre there. In speaking to Mr. Daley, The Digest asked him what he was doing in Toronto, to which he replied "Making The Uptown the best theatre in Toronto."

Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S—Manager Jules Bernstein — Greta Garbo in "Romance." One of M-G-M's big ones. Garbo better than ever. Characterizations by Lewis Stone and Gavin Gordon extremely well done.

IMPERIAL—Manager H. V. Knevels — "A Lady Surrenders," featuring Conrad Nagel and Genevieve Tobin. A Universal picture. A rather unusual story of a mis-marriage. Acted very well.

TIVOLI—Manager Jimmy Lynch — "Africa Speaks," a Columbia picture, in its second successful week.

SHEA'S HIPPODROME—Manager Jerry Shea—Bebe Daniels and Everett Marshall in "Dixiana." A picturesque melodrama, with very good music and generous comedy supplied by Wheeler and Woolsey. Very fine singing. A Radio picture of distinct merit.

UPTOWN—Manager R. E. Knevels — Joe Cook in Columbia's "Rain or Shine." A very good comedy of circus life, and Joe Cook going over big. Well directed by Frank Capra.

Earnings of Warners

For the fiscal year ending Aug. 30th, Warner Bros. earnings are \$7,074,621, after all charges, including depreciation, amortization, federal taxes, special film inventory writedown and extraordinary expenses incidental to co-ordinating newly acquired properties. After preferred dividends this amount is equal to \$1.77 a share.

In his report to the shareholders H. M. Warner stated that the benefits from the newly acquired properties have not begun to show in the past year. He further said that since Sept. 1 business and profits have increased.

Deal Between Radio and Pathe Off

Reports from American trade papers indicate that the deal between Radio Pictures and Pathe is now off. Banking affiliations of R.C.A. which at first agreed to the deal have now taken the stand that R.C.A. is making very good progress with its own productions and that it would be for the best that they continue without any affiliation with Pathe. However, booking agreements between the two companies will continue as heretofore.

More Advertising for Universal

Carl Laemmle has announced that Universal will increase its advertising to a great extent. More space will be taken in trade papers, newspapers and other forms of advertising. Laemmle is doing this with the idea of stimulating trade and cashing in on Universal's outstanding productions. He says that good products deserve more advertising than any other kind.

Fox 1931--32 Productions Start

Fox productions for 1931-32 are scheduled to start in February according to plans of Winfield Sheehan. Fifteen of the new year products will be completed by the middle of May. Sheehan is now negotiating for material, also for important stars for the productions.

Novelty Losing Its Appeal

The novelty of the Talking films is rapidly losing its appeal. Although there have been record incomes from feature pictures that were hits, the revenue from the ordinary picture has been exceedingly disappointing.

Warner Brothers, Fox and Radio Keith Orpheum all showed less profits for the Summer months than for the corresponding period of last year. Paramount and Loew's kept their earnings about par with last year. But in doing so were forced to use quite a number of their most successful pictures, and as a result it is probable that earnings during the winter months will be on the decline.

An endeavour is being made to bring back the juvenile patronage which has been destroyed by the type of sophisticated picture which has been shown so extensively for the past months. It is expected that film versions will be made of popular juvenile books.

Increase In U.S. Film Exports

At the end of the first nine months of 1930 film exports from the United States showed an increase of 8,900,540 linear feet in volume, and \$719,212 over the corresponding period of the previous year, according to a report issued by the United States Department of Commerce.

During 1930, 210,037,969 linear feet of motion pictures were shipped from United States to all markets of the world, this had a declared value of \$6,168,703 in comparison with 201,137,429 linear feet valued at \$5,449,491 for the corresponding period of 1929.

This is the largest total of film exports that United States has had since they began making records of film exports in 1925.

Canadians See "Hell's Angels"

Canadians who live in the border cities of Ontario are enabled to see "Hell's Angels" despite the Ontario Censor Board having banned it. They have simply to cross over into Detroit where it has been showing at Shubert's Detroit Opera House. The Detroit theatre is advertising this picture extensively in Canadian newspapers.

Addition Walker Theatre, Winnipeg

The further addition of what is called "The Lounge" at the Walker Theatre, Winnipeg, Man., is gaining a great deal of popularity with the patrons of that theatre. Many of the men seem to prefer it to the smoking rooms, as they can enjoy the pleasure of a smoke in the company of the ladies of their party.

The Lounge is very artistically decorated, with jade green and brown the predominating colors. It is furnished with comfortable chairs and settees, upholstered in chintz and silk damask, in which green, gold and henna are cleverly blended. The floor is made to represent marble tiling in green, cream white and brown.

Beacon Theatre Opened

Recently Mayor Webb of Winnipeg, formally opened the Beacon Theatre, Winnipeg, Man. Mayor Webb congratulated Mr. Morton, the owner, and wished him every success in his business venture.

The theatre was so crowded that without any rowdiness one of the doors at the main entrance to the theatre was broken.

OPERATOR MANAGER WANTED

Wanted immediately, Operator Manager, experienced on Northern Electric Sound Equipment. Must be good business getter, whole time required for advancement of business. Salary, Forty Dollars a week. Wire full particulars first instant.

DERRY'S THEATRES LTD.
KENORA, ONT.

FOR SALE

Pacnet Disc Equipment including Amplifiers and Speakers and Simplex Projectors now in operation in the National Theatre, Toronto. Pacnet Track Equipment may be added at any time at small cost. Ideal Sound Equipment for any average sized Theatre, in perfect running condition. See and hear it in operation yourself. Write NATIONAL THEATRE, 373 YONGE STREET, TORONTO, or Phone Gerrard 1305.

Anything You Can Mention! Sure, Why Not!!

Simplex Standard and Super Projectors, Assemblies and Genuine Parts.

Motigraph DeLuxe Projectors, Assemblies, Reflector Arcs and Genuine Parts.

Strong Junior and Senior Low Intensity Reflector Arc Lamps.

Peerless High Intensity Reflector Arc Lamps.

Cont-El-Arc Motor Generator Sets to suit any current for any amperage.

Vocalite Glass Bead Sound Screens. Endorsed by E.R.P.I., R.C.A., etc.

Ross and Superlite Projection Lenses in any size, any focus.

Brenkert Brenograph Effect Projector and Equipment.

National and Bio Projector Carbons.

Mazda Lamps, Repair Parts, Fulco Specialties, etc.

Everything from the Street to the Sheet! And the Prices are right down there where you never heard of before!

— SPECIAL —

Rear Revolving Shutters for Simplex Projectors — Made for us by a concern that knows what is required. Perfect machining and construction. Eliminates 60% of the heat from the film, parts and lenses. Complete with Shutter, Shutter Guard, Gate Opener, Eye-Shield and all fittings, and Revolving Type Framing Handle. Price per pair, complete, \$150.00.

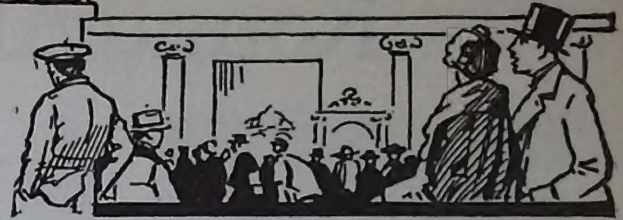
Warning—You may be offered rear shutters for Simplex Projectors at a lower price—but before you buy them, just be sure that all gears are a proper fit, that the blades are not abnormally wide and are fitted with draft vanes, and that using the common bar framing handle you can frame the full picture.

"Courtesy With Service"

THE COLEMAN ELECTRIC Co. - 258 Victoria St. - Toronto, Ont.



Show Business



(Special to The Digest from Ottawa)

Increased revenue, increased profits and an improved financial position were shown in the annual report of United Amusements, Limited, Montreal, operating a chain of 20 high-class theatres in Eastern Canada, the statement being for the fiscal year ending August 30.

Net earnings amounted to \$3.75 per common share, as compared with \$3.41 for the previous fiscal year, the number of outstanding shares being 74,137. The surplus account had a total of \$724,200, or an increase for the year of approximately \$113,400, while the net profit was \$296,452, as compared with \$270,440 one year ago. The property account total was \$3,111,224, which showed an increase of \$278,666.

United Amusements, Limited, is an independent organization which is affiliated with Famous Players Canadian Corp., the latter holding a minority block of stock. Incidentally, Famous Players made an offer of purchase some time ago but it was not accepted.

The employment of the screen for the presentation of special reels for an anniversary observance of general nature was exemplified in Canadian theatres during Armistice Week when several appropriate subjects were added to programs.

One of these special films was "Armistice" which opened with a soldier reciting "In Flanders Fields," followed by a tableau and leading into patriotic numbers by a visible band, namely the Grenadier Guards Band. Another film was called "Armistice Memories" and showed battle scenes reproduced from the Great War with musical and sound accompaniment. These were shown at every performance during the week of the Armistice anniversary.

Managers of leading theatres in Western Canada have adopted the policy of conducting pre-view midnight presentations of attractions which will not be regularly offered until one week later. This was done with "Madame Satan" at the Capitol, Edmonton, when the current regular attraction was "Check 'n Double Check," and with "Up the River" at the Empress, while "Her Wedding Night" was the week's feature.

At Calgary, midnight pre-views of "Monte Carlo" and "Madame Satan" were held at the Palace and Capitol Theatres respectively although their regular engagements were a week later. The advanced presentations help in word-of-mouth advertising and there is also definite box office returns from the midnight shows themselves.

Harold Hitchison, veteran manager of Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario, has been appointed manager of the new Capitol Theatre, Halifax, where T. S. Daley has been temporarily in charge. Daley is returning to Famous Players' head office in Toronto.

Vaudeville has been discontinued at the Palace Theatre, Hamilton, Ontario, where Leonard Bishop is in charge. Only two theatres in Ontario and Quebec continue to have combination policies.

As encouragement for early mailing of Christmas parcels, Hon. Arthur Sauve, Postmaster General of Canada, appeared in a special film which was taken on the steps

of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa. The talking message, in both English and French, is to be distributed among all Canadian theatres early in December for regular presentation. Paramount and Fox news trucks were used for the shooting of the special release.

Publix stage units have replaced the local talent and vaudeville in the stage presentations at the Capitol Theatre, Montreal, and the Imperial, Toronto. To inaugurate the new plan, Helen Kane, screen star, made personal appearances at the two theatres in successive weeks. Stage shows are also scheduled to return to the Uptown Theatre, Toronto.

For the fifth time in two months an attraction played both the Imperial and Regent Theatres, Ottawa, when "Check 'n Double Check" was presented in both houses by Manager T. R. Tubman, prices at the Imperial being raised to the Regent level.

C. L. Lutes, lessee, announces that he has been successful in inducing Charles P. Wright to temporarily abandon his work in talking pictures to spend a few months in stock as leading man and director at the Dominion Theatre, Winnipeg. Mr. Wright is now on his way from Hollywood. He took charge from Nov. 10. J. Albert Hebert, who has been accountant for some years, will assume the duties of house manager.

With the presentation of "Africa Speaks" at the Dominion Theatre, Vancouver, B.C., during the week of November 8, the Terminal City was the only centre in Canada to have had both this attraction and "Ingagi," the latter having been passed by the British Columbia censor board.

United Artists' features were held over in both Toronto and Montreal for the week of November 10. When "Whoopie" stayed the second week at Loew's, Toronto, it was the first time that any picture had been held over there since the theatre opened 17 years ago. "What a Widow" also continued at the Princess Theatre, Montreal.

Roxy Theatre To Have Sound Equipment

The Roxy Theatre, Yorkton, Sask., is to have new sound equipment. Mr. Rothstein, owner of the Roxy Theatre, said that after a great deal of deliberation he was installing R.C.A. equipment. It is expected that the installation engineers will arrive very shortly. The date of the re-opening will be announced in the near future.

Rolla B.C. Has Talkie Pictures

Rolla, B.C., was the scene of the first all-talking picture to be shown in that part of the north country. The equipment installed is of the very latest design. Crowds, from the surrounding country, motored in for the inaugural night. Rolla is believed to be the town farthest north in British Columbia which has all-talking pictures.

Round About the Studios



Marie Dressler who has been given a new long-term contract by M-G-M.

As a result of her excellent work in the recently completed "Min and Bill," and before that in "Anna Christie," Marie Dressler has been signed to a new long-term contract by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Walter Miller, who played leads opposite Mary Pickford in the old Biograph days, has been signed by Big 4 to appear in "Hell's Valley" in support of Wally Wales.

Miller has appeared opposite many favorites including Blanche Sweet, the Gish Sisters, Mae Marsh, Corrine Griffith and Betty Compson and in over a dozen Pathe serials.

Victor Saville, now fully engaged with "The Sport of Kings" for Gainsborough at the B. & D. Studios, Elstree, had a field day last Friday when on the adjoining "lot" he "reconstructed" a corner of Newmarket Heath.

Charlie Chaplin, "City Lights" completed, will leave Hollywood December 15th for New York and London. He will be accompanied by Carlyle Robinson and his staff.

The world premiere of the new Chaplin picture, will take place in a Los Angeles Theatre on New Year's Eve, Mr. Chaplin announces. Minus talk but with sounds and music, "City Lights" is now being titled and synchronized. In the supporting cast are Virginia Cherrill, nineteen-year old Chicago girl, and Harry Myers.

The cast of Columbia's "Anybody's Girl," a tense drama of dance hall life, was completed this week with the signing of Aggie Herring, Harry Todd and Peggy Doner. Lionel Barrymore is directing this Extended Run Giant, which stars Barbara Stanwyck and features an imposing cast including Ricardo Cortez, Monroe Owsley, Blanche Friderici, Sally Blane, Victor Potel, Olive Tell, David Newell, Martha Sleeper, Phyllis Crane, Al Hill, Jack Byron and Bobby Burns Berman.

"Sky Line" will be the title of the first original screen romance to be written by George and Ira Gershwin and Guy Bolton for Fox Films. The story will be a rhapsodic love drama reflecting in music the emotions and sounds of a big city.

William Powell's next talking picture production will be "Ladies' Man," from the well-known story by Rupert Hughes. The picture will go into rehearsal in a few days at the Paramount studios in Hollywood. Lothar Mendes, who is to direct, arrived there from New York this week. In the meantime "Alias Mrs. Wallace," the Octavus Roy Cohen play purchased as a Powell starring feature under the tentative title of "Buy Your Woman," will be produced with another cast.



ODDITIES IN STRANGE LANDS
and thrills galore are offered in the Vagabond Adventure pictures made by Van Beuren for Pathé

A new Pathe Grantland Rice Spotlight titled "Dixie Chase" features an old time Southern Fox Hunt through the hills of North Carolina. An interesting sidelight in the making of this picture was that when the sly and elusive fox had finally been treed, the only man able to climb to the top of the tree and bring down brother fox was Raymond Swanecamp, the Sound Recorder for Sportlights.

This is a little out of line with his regular duties, but it is felt the fellow members in the Sound Union will not raise any strong objection.

The last scenes of "Dracula," which Tod Browning has been producing at Universal City, will be shot this week. In every way this promises to be one of the outstanding productions of the year. It is in every way the "something different" which every moving picture producer is so keen to make. Nothing like "Dracula" has ever been seen on the screen in all of its thirty years.

Nearly two hundred Chinese players were employed by Fox Films for "The Man Who Came Back," directed by Raoul Walsh. Tom Gubbins, for many years known as "king" of the Los Angeles Chinatown, supplied the Chinese and directed them in their own language.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has purchased Ernest Paynter's short story, "Maskee," published in the American Magazine. This will probably be placed on the list of productions assembled for the coming season.

Paul Girard Smith is doing adaptations and dialogue on Educational's comedies being produced at the Metropolitan Studios. He recently collaborated with Walter DeLeon on the screen adaptation and continuity for the Tuxedo Comedy titled "The Passionate Pups."

Tiffany will be represented on the silver screen of the new R.K.O. Mayfair Theatre, where "The Little Big House," current Tiffany Talking Chimp funmaker will provide the laughs for the week starting November 13th.

James S. Tinling, who recently completed "For the Love O' Lil," for Columbia Pictures, has been signed by the company to direct a series of productions. The first will be "The Flood," a de luxe Special, which is listed among Columbia's most ambitious efforts for the coming season.

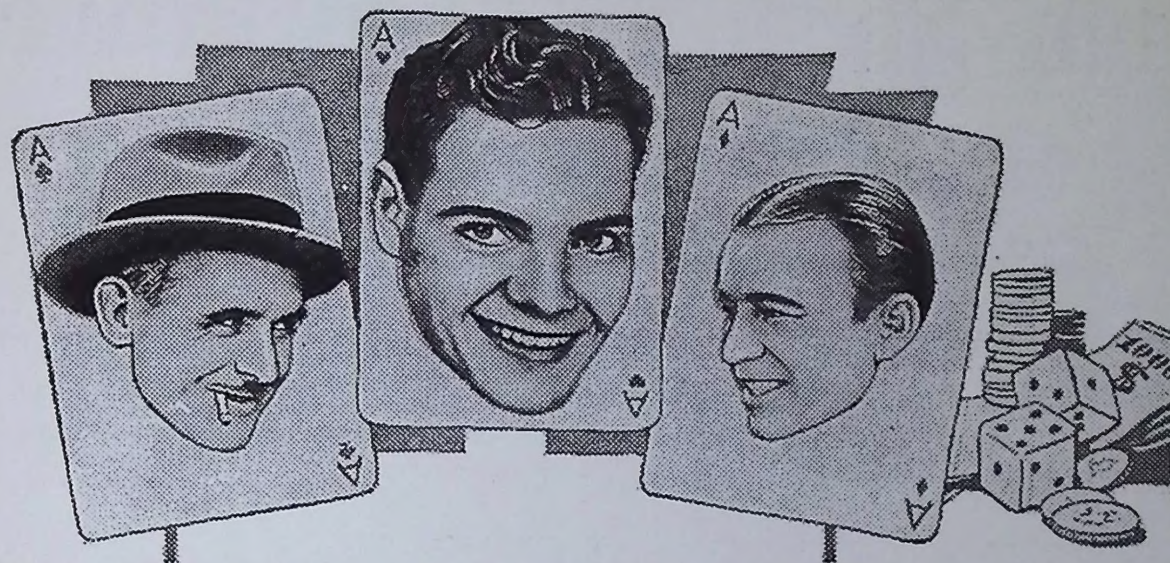
Having completed "Within the Law," Joan Crawford has begun work in "Dance, Fools, Dance," under the direction of Harry Beaumont.

Lester Vail, who has appeared in a number of New York stage productions, has the leading role opposite the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer star and the cast includes William Bakewell, Earl Fox, Purnell Pratt, Thelma Todd, Hale Hamilton and Cliff Edwards.

Dorothy Janis and "The White Captive" company are expected back at Universal City studios this week. This company, under the leadership of Harry Garson, has been in the Orient for the last six months.



Norma Shearer who recently signed a new long-term contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and will soon be seen in an adaptation of Ursula Parrott's novel, "Strangers May Kiss."



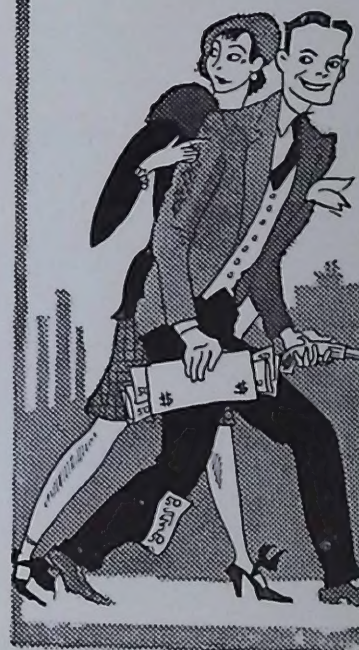
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with **EDDIE QUILLAN**
ROBERT ARMSTRONG
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Pathé Feature

Directed by **RUSSELL MACK**

GET-RICH-QUICK-WALLINGFORD up-to-date
— a new laughing, care-free would-be Croesus
comes to light in this mad, merry comedy, packed
with thrills, spills, drama, humor and swift action
— the finest dialogue picture of the year.



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The only Sound Subject of its kind. All the world of professional and amateur sports produced in delightful style under the supervision of America's premier sports writer, by VAN BEUREN Corporation.

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Smart, modern and cleverly alert about Who is Who, and What is What, Where, When and Why. In Rainbow Colors, artful Talk and soothing Tunes. Ingenious contributions to the audible screen edited by TERRY RAMSAYE.

Pathe Serials

The New Perils of Pauline, The New Exploits of Elaine, The New Poison Pen — Amplified by exciting dialogue — intensified by startling sound effects — The screen's greatest thrillers re-made to revive big business.

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25 years of comedy leadership maintained in zippy, fast moving laugh-provokers in which the screen's new stars make their film debut. Box office names in every comedy. A variety in subjects adding spice to the bill.

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Taking the world's eyes and ears into the most mysterious corners of the earth. Thrilling travelogues told in the inimitable style of TOM TERRISS. The outstanding dramatic short subject sensations. Produced by VAN BEUREN Corporation.

Song Sketches

A delightful series of the most beloved songs of all times, interpreted and portrayed by musical artists of rare ability with a scenic investiture of beauty and absorbing story background. A necessity for any complete program.

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